

moral decline as was suffered by England during the eighteenth century and by Europe when it was shifting its allegiance from the Church of Rome to national sovereigns. In this fact we may find some explanation of the rising and falling tides which history discloses in the fortunes of nations.

The history of politics is an epitome of the history of man. He is launched upon the sea of life along with all other living creatures. Their barks are fitted with sails and equipped with rudders, so set as to carry them undeviatingly across to the opposite coast. But man is cast adrift in a rudderless boat, without mast or oars. He painfully collects pieces of drift wood, awkwardly fashions oars for himself, and slowly progresses with uncertain course, aware that he can obtain guidance from the stars, but ignorant of the stars which can properly direct him. He learns through the perils of storms and shipwrecks some points of the heavens which should draw his attention, and boldly directs his prow towards the open sea. The hope of the Promised Land is before him. He may never arrive : but in his wanderings he passes amongst such isles of enchantment as other living creatures may not behold. He may be tempted by the Sirens, and linger with Calypso : he may fall a prisoner in the hands of the Cyclops : he may be blown past Scylla in the terror of death : he may

even draw near that mysterious shore to which the spirits of his dead have been transported. But each new adventure teaches him fresh ^h lessons in what to avoid and strengthens his heart against ^{the} future perils.